Iqbal Chapter 1 Response

I just finished reading chapter 1 from a realistic fiction novel called, Iqbal by Francesco D’Adamo. The chapter is about Fatima who is a child worker, who talks her life for the past three years. The story takes place at a carpet factory. The chapter was important because it introduced characters, setting and what the topic will be about.

The author’s purpose for writing this chapter is to introduce characters, settings, and what the story is going to be about. Characters introduced in this chapter were Hussain Khan who is the boss and Fatima who is the narrator and the main characters of the story. The story is taking place in the carpet factory where Fatima works. I think the story will be about child labour. The reason why I’m reading this story is to learn about child labour and how hard it is from a first person perspective and to practice EXPLORE response.

Some key lines or words, names or place worth remembering are Fatima, Hussain Khan, the carpet factory and “I hadn’t dreamt in months. Fatima and Hussain Khan are important because they played big roles in chapter one so they’ll have a bigger role later on in the story. The carpet factory will be a main place because the story is about child labour and bosses or masters use children in carpet factories because they have small fingers. “I hadn’t dreamt in months” is a key line because it connects to the topic which is child labour. Not dreaming could be something that happens when you’re working at such a young age or not having anytime to play.

Organizational features that helped me or got in the way of my understanding where the numbers at the beginning of each chapter. The numbers helped me because it divided the book up. Having smaller parts to read are easier to understand. Having chapters are easier because reading short parts are easier to group ideas and easier to retell the story.

I can relate to what happened to Fatima and her not dreaming because sometimes I don’t dream for weeks. I don’t know why I do. I think I’ve went a whole month without dreaming.

I evaluated my thinking by asking the questions, have the children that worked with Hussain Khan ever been set free? I think none have ever been set free because I think Hussain Khan adds lines every night, so I think he’d stop adding lines when one of his worker’s fingers are too big to work at the carpet factory. One of my ah-ha moments was when I discovered how they discovered how to keep track of their debt. The way Hussain kept track of their debt was to draws lines on a slate and everyday the child worker worked a full day he would erase a line from the slate.